

DROITWICH  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



---

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1940

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.



# REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1940.

TO THE DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

This Report is arranged according to the instructions given in Circular 1961 which was issued by the Ministry of Health in February, 1940.

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) ..... 51,453

Registrar-General's estimate of :

(a) resident population, mid-1940 ..... 11,680

(b) average population appropriate to the calculation  
of death rates ..... 11,680

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to

Rate Books ..... 3,704

Rateable value ..... £64,704

Sum represented by One Penny Rate ..... £271 14s. 10d.

The District is mainly agricultural, although a number of workers at the Salt Union Works, Stoke Works, resides within the area.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year :—

Live Births.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate .....	77	91	168
Illegitimate .....	7	2	9
Totals .....	84	93	177

Birth-rate per 1000 of Estimated Population (mid-  
1940) ..... 15.1

Still Births.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ....	5	3	8
Illegitimate ....	—	—	—
Totals ....	5	3	8

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births .... 43.2

Deaths.	M.	F.	Total.
All Causes ....	97	91	188

Death-rate per 1000 of the Estimated Average Population 16.1.  
Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis ....	1	5.4
Other Puerperal Causes ....	—	—
Totals ....	1	5.4

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :....

All infants per 1000 live births ....	66.7
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ....	46.8
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ....	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ....	28
„ „ Measles (all ages) ....	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ....	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ....	2

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### 1. (i) Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) *Medical.* Dr. A. B. Follows was appointed Medical Officer of Health on the 1st April, 1939 ; and, on the 31st December, I took over his duties temporarily in an acting capacity.

(b) *Others.* Mr. Oswald Sharpe, Cert.S.I.B., is a whole-time Officer who combines the duties of Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor; but, since the outbreak of war, he has performed the additional duties of Deputy Billeting Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer A.R.P.

Mr. J. Taylor, Cert.S.I.B., is a whole-time Officer who combines the duties of Additional Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor. He was appointed to the post in November, 1937, and was granted leave of absence in order to join the R.A.M.C. in January this year. An attempt is being made to carry on without filling the vacancy thus caused.

- (ii) There have been no changes in the services provided by the Laboratory, Ambulance, Nursing, Clinics and Hospitals, which continue to be satisfactory.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) **Water.** During the year, more properties in the Parish of North Claines have been connected with the main water supply from Worcester City, and the scheme is proving to be satisfactory both in quality and quantity. All cases of minor contamination of wells have been dealt with.
- (ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.** The Fernhill Heath Sewerage Scheme has been operating for over a year and has proved satisfactory.
2. **Rivers and Streams.** No action was necessary during the period under review.
3. (i) **Closet Accommodation.** The putting into operation of the scheme for the conversion of closets from the conservancy system to the water-carriage system within the area of the Fernhill Heath Sewerage Scheme has been postponed indefinitely owing to difficulty in obtaining materials under war-time conditions.
- (ii) **Public Cleansing.** Acting under the direction of the Ministry of Supply, the Council employed additional labour for the salvage of waste paper, scrap metal and bones, and every effort was made to continue to give a satisfactory collection of dry domestic refuse. The

Council experienced considerable difficulties in obtaining satisfactory labour owing to the fact that permanent employees were called to the Services and that they were faced with the competition of the attractive conditions offered by Government Contractors in the adjoining areas as well as within the district.

- (iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.** The report of the Sanitary Inspector, dealing with the work carried out during the year, is attached.
  - (iv) **Shops.** No action was taken under the Shops Act, 1934, during the year.
  - (v) **Camping Sites.** Although there was no alteration made as regards the licensing of camping sites, camping was on a smaller scale than usual owing to war-time conditions.
  - (vi) **Smoke Abatement.** It was not found necessary to take any action during the year.
  - (vii) **Swimming Baths and Pools.** The only swimming bath in the area is privately owned, and this was not opened to the public during the year.
  - (viii) **Eradication of Bed Bugs, etc.** No action was necessary during the year.
4. **Schools.** The water supply and sanitary conditions at the several schools were satisfactory.

## SECTION D. HOUSING.

### 1. **Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.**

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ....	105
and number of inspections made for the purpose....	132
(b) Number of dwelling-houses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ....	1
and number of inspections made for the purpose	1
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ....	1
(d) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ....	98



2. **Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	....	....	....	101
---	------	------	------	-----

3. **Action under Statutory Powers.**

(a) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs (or defects remedied)	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
---	------	------	------	------	------	------

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	....	....	....	....	....	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
--	------	------	------	------	------	------

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) by the Owner	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of owner	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.

(c) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	....	....	....	....	2

(d) *Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	....	....	....	....	....	Nil.

#### 4. **Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.**

No records are available regarding the many premises now overcrowded due to war-time conditions. But it will be realised that the number of overcrowded houses has increased considerably owing to the influx of evacuees both official and unofficial. Moreover, it has not been possible to obtain any census of the unofficial evacuees resident in the area.

### **SECTION E.**

#### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

- (a) **Milk Supply.** Milk Producers' premises have been visited during the year and the samples, taken for bacteriological examination, have proved satisfactory.
- (b) **Meat and other Foods.** The four licensed slaughter-houses were inspected regularly until the outbreak of war last September, when slaughtering was discontinued in the area.
- (c) **Adulterations, etc.** I am indebted to Mr. E. A. Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, for the following information regarding samples taken in this district under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938: 29 samples of milk were taken by his department during the course of the year. One of these samples contained 13 per cent added water; the vendor was prosecuted and a fine and costs were imposed. In addition 10 samples of groceries and 2 samples of drugs were submitted to the County Analyst.
- (d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.** This work is carried out by the County Analyst and Bacteriologist at the County Laboratory, Worcester.



# **SECTION F.** **PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

## **Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1940.**

It is surprising to note that, in spite of overcrowding due to war-time conditions, there has been comparatively little change in the incidence of infectious disease since the influx of evacuees into the area.

Particulars of cases of infectious diseases, which occurred during the course of the year (together with those of measles and whooping cough which became notifiable in October, 1939) are shown in the following table :—

Disease.	Total cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever .....	49	39	—
Diphtheria .....	10	10	—
Puerperal Fever .....	1	—	1
Pneumonia .....	7	—	—
Erysipelas .....	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	7	7	2
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	1	1	—
Measles .....	60	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	53	—	—

An analysis of the total notified cases, according to age groups, is given below :—

Age Group.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Puer- peral Fever.	Pneu- monia.	Ery- sipelas	Cere- bro- spinal Fever.	Acute Polio- myeli- tis.	Meas- les.	Whoop- ing Cough
Under									
1 year ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
1—2 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
2—3 ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	5
3—4 ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	5
4—5 ...	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	6
5—10 ...	23	3	—	1	—	—	1	24	24
10—15	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	4
15—20	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	10	—
20—35	10	3	1	—	—	—	—	8	1
35—45	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	1
45—65	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Over 65 years	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—

**Tuberculosis.** The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year :—

Age Periods.	<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1— ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— ....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15— ....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25— ....	2	3	—	—	1	3	—	—
35— ....	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45— ....	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55— ....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	8	6	—	—	3	4	1	—

My thanks are due to Mr. Oswald Sharpe, the Sanitary Inspector, and to the staff for the help they have given me in compiling this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

You obedient Servant,

S. CHALMERS PARRY,

*Acting Medical Officer of Health.*

## **DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

---

### **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

### **ANNUAL REPORT, 1940.**

I beg to submit a Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year ending the 31st December, 1940.

At the beginning of the year the Council's Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. Taylor, was granted leave of absence to serve with His Majesty's Forces, and for the remainder of the period under review the Council made no further appointment of qualified assistance. Temporary unqualified assistance was employed, but, due to changes, the department was short staffed for long periods.

Throughout the year the administration of Air Raid Precautions and Evacuation continued to be carried out through the Public Health Department, as well as such other Civil Defence matters as War Damage, etc. Under these circumstances only essential health matters received attention.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shews the incidence of infectious diseases in the several parishes:—

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Puer- peral Fever	Pneu- monia	Erysip- elas	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Acute Polio- myelitis	Measles	Whoop- ing Cough
N. Claines ...	10	2	—	—	—	2	—	13	5
Crowle ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dodderhill ...	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Doverdale ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Elmbridge ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Elmley Lovett ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
Hadzor ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Hampton Lovett ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hanbury ...	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	6	—
Hartlebury ...	12	—	1	2	—	—	—	8	44
Himbleton ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
Hindlip ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Huddington ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Martin									
Hussingtree...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oddingley ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ombersley ...	11	6	—	—	—	1	—	14	—
St. Martin's									
(County) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Salwarpe ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	—
Stock & Bradley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tibberton ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Upton Warren	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warndon ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westwood ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	49	10	1	7	1	7	1	60	53

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS.

The following is a summary of matters dealt with during the period under review :—

No. of Houses inspected	105
No. of Dwelling-houses found unfit for habitation	1
No. of Dwelling-houses not in all respects fit for habitation	98
No. of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit after informal action	101
No. of Dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring repairs or defects to be remedied	98
No. of Dwelling-houses rendered fit after formal action	2
No. of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
No. of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
No. of Dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings not to use premises for human habitation were given by owners	—
No. of drains laid or relaid	28
No. of drains trapped, ventilated or repaired	58
No. of obstructed drains dealt with	28
No. of house drains tested	46
No. of insanitary lavatories, sinks, etc., rectified	6
No. of Privy or pail conversions, including additional water-closets	6
No. of defective water-closets, etc., remedied	5
No. of defective or insanitary cesspools dealt with	10
No. of new drainage schemes dealt with	10
No. of offensive accumulations dealt with	6
Pollution of watercourses dealt with	17
No. of ditches, etc., cleaned out	15
Keeping of animals dealt with	1
Infested premises dealt with	3
Overcrowded houses dealt with	2

As compared with previous years, there was very little camping. The licensed camping sites were used, however, at holiday periods, and in each case were conducted satisfactorily. One new licence was granted during the year, permitting one dwelling.

## OVERCROWDING.

No special review was made of the overcrowding position at the end of the year. The Rural District is a reception area under the Government Evacuation Scheme, and in addition to the persons of priority classes, a large number of persons connected with Government Departments, Contractors, etc., have come into the area. Also, owing to the close proximity of more dangerous areas to the north, the district is being extensively used as a dormitory. Under these circumstances it cannot be expected that overcrowding conditions have improved; on the contrary, much fewer houses are likely to satisfy the standard laid down by the Housing Act.

## HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS.

Due to war conditions and the consequent difficulties in obtaining materials and labour, the reconditioning of properties under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act is in abeyance.

Work on three cottages was completed during the year.

## MILK AND DAIRIES.

No. of Registered Dairy Farms	....	....	<del>100</del> 170
No. of Registered Producers	....	....	<del>144</del> 147
No. of Registered Retailers	....	....	<del>71</del> 74
No. of Milking Cows (approximately)	....	....	<del>267</del> 2704

The following Table shows the number of Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938, on 1st January, 1941, by the County Council for Accredited and Tuberculin tested Milks, as compared with previous years :—

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
No. of Production and Bottling Licences	2	4	4	4	3	3	3
No. of Production Licences	—	19	23	25	31	29	31

From the details of the Licences granted on 1st January, 1941, it is noted that approximately 15 per cent of the Accredited and Tuberculin-tested milk producers in the County are within this area.



The following Licences were issued by this Council during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938 :—

Two licences to “ Pasteurise ” milk.

One licence to bottle “ Accredited ” milk.

Two supplementary licences for the sale of “ Pasteurised ” milk.

## **MEAT AND OTHER FOODS : SLAUGHTERHOUSES.**

Slaughtering at the four licensed slaughterhouses in the district was discontinued at the outbreak of war.

Six licences were issued or renewed by the Council during the year to slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

## **SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

All the sewerage and sewage disposal works owned by the Council, including the new works at Fernhill Heath, have received regular supervision throughout the period under review, and I am pleased to report that satisfactory effluents have been obtained from the Fernhill Heath Outfall Works.

## **WATER SUPPLY.**

During the year a further 40 properties have been connected to the Council's water mains in North Claines Parish. There remains a considerable number of properties that could be connected to the new water mains, but it cannot be anticipated that owners will avail themselves of the services under the present conditions.

The East Worcestershire Waterworks Company's water main is available in the parishes of Dodderhill and Upton Warren, the remainder of the district deriving its supply from wells.

The following is a summary of matters dealt with in relation to water supply during the period under review :—

No. of wells sunk	....	....	....	....	Nil.
No. of wells cleansed and repaired	....	....	....	....	2
No. of wells closed	....	....	....	....	1
No. of houses supplied from waterworks	....	....	....	....	40
No. of samples submitted for analysis	....	....	....	....	6
No. of houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with	....	....	....	....	3

## SCAVENGING.

Under the direction of the Ministry of Supply, the Council have put into operation a Salvage collection, the main scheme being confined to scrap metals, bones, waste paper and rags. The collection of waste food is adequately dealt with by private arrangements between local pig-keepers and householders.

Every effort has been made to carry out the salvage work and maintain the collection of Dry Domestic Refuse, but, generally speaking, this has been the most difficult service to maintain. Early in the year workmen were called to the Services, and, in spite of the payment of higher wages, the Council were unable to engage satisfactory and efficient workmen, due to the more attractive condition offered by Contractors on work of national importance. Difficulty was also encountered in the disposal of salvage materials, particularly scrap metal.

The following is a summary of the work done during the period under review :—

No. of houses from which refuse was removed	....	3560
No. of privies cleansed	....	274
No. of ashpits cleansed	....	190
No. of houses from which refuse is removed at :		
(a) Fortnightly intervals	....	1636
(b) Monthly intervals	....	816
(c) Quarterly intervals	....	1108

Total amounts of salvage collected and sold during year :—

	<i>Weight.</i>	<i>Approximate Value.</i>
	T. C. Qr.	£
Paper ....	24 15 3	105
Ferrous Metals ....	12 6 2	21
Non-ferrous metals ....	1 11 1	5
Rags, etc. ....	0 16 0	5
Bones ...	0 19 1	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	40 8 3	£139

## NEW BUILDINGS.

Due to war conditions, very little development has taken place in the area. Seventeen plans were deposited and dealt with, and only 11 houses were erected and completed during 1940.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Officers of the Council for their help and assistance throughout the period under review.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

OSWALD SHARPE, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I.,

*Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor.*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

RURAL COUNCIL OFFICES,

DROITWICH.





